REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The specification has been amended to add section headings responsive to the raised objection.

The claims have been amended to remedy the stated bases of rejection under section 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, and 11 stand rejected as anticipated by KAHN et al. WO 97/43717 ("KAHN").

Claims 2, 3, 9, and 10 stand rejected as obvious over KAHN.

Claims 5 and 12 stand rejected as obvious over KAHN in view of MURALIDHRAN et al. 6,341,351.

Claim 7 stands rejected as obvious over KAHN in view of DOWNS et al. 6,226,618 and SHIMIZU et al. 6,684,198.

Claims 1 and 8 are independent. These claims are believed both novel and non-obvious over the prior art. The dependent claims are believed allowable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

Consider claim 1 first. Claim 1 recites: "a determined piece of information is stored in a storage location according to a determined address (105, 110)". For this passage, the Official Action has offered page 3, lines 15-32 of KAHN. This is the first paragraph following the Summary of the Invention title:

Summary of the Invention

In general, in one aspect, the invention features
a method of managing digital objects in a network, the
objects are stored at locations accessible in the network
using a storage technique which renders the digital
objects secure against unauthorized access. Pointer
information which associates each digital object
identifier with a pointer indicating the location of the
stored digital object is also stored in the network. For
each digital object validation information is stored,
separately from the digital object, and is sufficient to
permit a determination whether a purported instance of a
digital object is identical to the original. In examples
of the invention, an authorized user may have access to
the validation information, using the digital object
identifier, to determine whether a purported instance of
a digital object is identical to the original. The
validation information comprises a digital signature over
the digital object.

The Official Action has not been specific as to what

the recitation of "a determined piece of information" is being

read upon. However, applicant understands the disclosed digital

objects are the determined piece of information.

Claim 1 next recites that the address information that

determines said address is transmitted to the intermediator

(128). For this recitation the Official Action has offered page

3, line 15 through page 5, line 14. Again, the Official Action

offers no more specific explanation of how the recitation is

being read onto this lengthy passage.

Applicant understands that the "digital object

identifier" and the "pointers" mentioned in the page 3, lines 15-

32 passage are being offered for these features in that the

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identifiers include the name of the digital objects (the recited information) and the pointers include the storage location(s) of the digital objects.

Claim 1 next recites "information of at least one user who has the right to access said determined piece of information is transmitted to the intermediator (115)." For this recitation the Official Action has offered page 5, line 25 through page 6, line 6. The passage of KAHN discloses maintaining a record of information concerning digital objects stored on a network in a manner that restricts unauthorized access. There is disclosed a reference service provided on the network, separate from the storage of the digital objects, for recording information about accesses to and transactions associated with the digital objects. Access to the records of the reference service is permitted to authorized users.

From this, it appears that the recitation of the information concerning the user with access rights being transmitted to the intermediator is being read on the reference service provided on the network.

The next recitation of claim 1 is that "said address information is stored in the user-specific directory of the intermediator, in which directory said at least one user has access (250),". For this recitation the Official Action has again offered page 3, lines 15-32 of KAHN.

Summary of the Invention

In general, in one aspect, the invention features a method of managing digital objects in a network, the objects are stored at locations accessible in the network using a storage technique which renders the digital objects secure against unauthorized access. Pointer information which associates each digital object identifier with a pointer indicating the location of the stored digital object is also stored in the network. For each digital object validation information is stored, separately from the digital object, and is sufficient to permit a determination whether a purported instance of a digital object is identical to the original. In examples of the invention, an authorized user may have access to the validation information, using the digital object identifier, to determine whether a purported instance of a digital object is identical to the original. The validation information comprises a digital signature over the digital object.

This passage, however, fails to disclose "said address information is stored in **the user-specific directory** of the intermediator" (emphasis added). There is no user-specific directory of the intermediator disclosed by KAHN. Independent claim 8 has a similar recitation.

Note that published application paragraph [0036] defines that "`Intermediary directory` is a storage location maintained by the intermediator for user-specific addresses and access rights, which directory is available for the user in question."

Further see paragraph [0052] "FIG. 5 illustrates a user-specific intermediary directory according to the invention, where the address information is represented as links."

Still further see paragraph [0061] "The intermediator's terminal 440 includes the intermediator's server 441, which … includes the database 448, in which the user-specific intermediary directories are recorded. In addition, the intermediator's server includes the user registers 446, which contain the necessary information of the users and of the user verification procedures, whereby the user is verified in order to grant access to one or several user-specific intermediary directories. Moreover, the intermediator's servers includes producer registers, which contain information of possible data transmission encryption procedures used with various producers, as well as lists of the user identifiers used by the producers and of their respective identification with the users included in the intermediator's register."

There is nothing in KAHN that discloses this recited feature of the present invention or this concept (address information of a determined piece of information being stored in a user-specific, and user-accessible, directory of an intermediator). Accordingly, the independent claims are believed patentable.

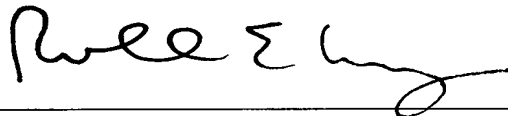Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that it is clear that these above amendments and comments place the case in condition for allowance. However, should there be any remaining matters, it is

requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted so that these can be resolved and the case pass to allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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